BOROUGH OF BECCLES.

ANNUAL REPORT

OF THE

MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH,

For the Year ending December, 1909.

To His Worship the Mayor, and to the Aldermen and Councillors of the Borough of Beccles.

GENTLEMEN,

I beg to submit herewith the Annual Report on the Public Health and Sanitary Conditions of the Borough for the year 1909.

VITAL STATISTICS.

The population of the Borough estimated to the middle of 1909 is 7070 and there are 1729 inhabited houses. The area is 2037 acres, including marshes (958 acres).

BIRTHS.—The total number of births registered in the Borough during 1909 was 150, giving a rate per 1000 of the population of 21·2. Of the 150 births registered, 77 were boys and 73 were girls.

DEATHS.—The total number of deaths registered was 78, giving a death-rate of 11·03.

The following table gives the Births and Deaths from all causes in each quarter of the past year.

BIRTHS.				DEATHS.			
Quarter ending.	*Males.*	*Females.*	*Total.*	*Quarter ending.*	*Males.*	*Females.*	*Total.*
March ...	17	21	28	March ...	12	11	23
June ...	20	18	38	June ...	13	6	19
September	15	18	33	September	8	9	17
December	25	16	41	December	9	10	19
	77	73	150		42	36	78

There have been seven deaths of residents and non-residents in Public Institutions in the district, i.e.: the Beccles Hospital. There have been 14 deaths of residents in Public Institutions outside the district—2 in Melton Asylum and 12 in Shipmeadow Union.

There has been one death from Zymotic or Infectious Disease, viz: Measles.

DEATHS FROM SPECIAL CAUSES.

	1909.	1908.	1907.	1906.	1905.	1904.
Cancer	6	7	6	8	4	6
Phthsis	9	3	3	9	5	9
Bronchitis and Pneumonia	8	6	3	12	17	9
Heart Disease	10	16	8	14	6	9

INFANTILE MORTALITY.

There have been 9 deaths of Infants during 1909, as compared with 11 in 1908, and 21 in 1907; the average for the previous 8 years being 15. On the total number of births this yields an infant mortality rate of 60, as compared with 62·5 in 1908, and 131·25 in 1907. This is equal to the lowest rate in 1906, and much below that of other larger towns.

The following are the causes of death among infants:—

Premature Births	3	Gastro-Enteritis	1
Marasmus and Debility ...	2	Convulsions	2
Tubercular Meningitis ...	1		

Printed Cards on the Feeding of Infants are sent to each mother after the confinement.

Eight Inquests have been held by the Coroner; these include 4 accidents, 1 suicide, and 3 in cases of sudden death.

WATER SUPPLY OF THE BOROUGH.

This is supplied by the Waterworks Company and is pumped from their station in Pudding Moor. There is a good supply and during the year I have made Chemical Analyses of the water taken from different parts of the Borough, with the result that there never has been present any impurity rendering the water harmful for domestic and drinking purposes. There have been much fewer complaints about the water, which has been much less discolored.

SEWAGE.

The Sewage from the Borough is taken to the Sewage Farm in Ravensmeer. There are no Privies capable of being connected with the Sewers.

There are Three Systems of Closets existing in the Borough: the Water Closet proper; the Slop Closet, and the Pail Closet (dry earth), the last named is fast disappearing.

The following is the percentage of the different types: 86% Water Closets; 10·5 % Pail Closets (dry); 2·5 % Privies; 1·25 % to Cesspools.

The Slaughter Houses have been regularly visited and found to be kept in a satisfactory condition, also the Cowsheds and Dairies.

THE INFECTIOUS DISEASES.

During 1909, there were 27 notifications of notifiable Diseases, as compared with 34 in 1908; of these 25 were of Scarlet Fever and 2 of Erysipelas.

There have been no cases notified of Diptheria or Typhoid Fever, as was case last year. It has been unusual to have no notifications of either of these two Diseases in any one year and that this should be repeated a second year is a cause of considerable congratulation.

There were two small outbreaks of Scarlet Fever; the first occurred in January and the second in September. Children were found running about the the streets in the peeling stage and were promptly isolated. It is surprising that the epidemic did not spread to a greater extent. I am glad to be able to report that the cases were mild in character and complete recovery took place in every case.

There was an outbreak of Measles during the year among young children but with few complications.

MEDICAL INSPECTION OF SCHOOL CHILDREN.

The County Medical Officer has referred to the local Practitioners several children affected with Adenoids and Defective Vision, and in consequence considerable relief has been given these children. There is no doubt that several parents do not take advantage of the advice given them and fail to have the defects attended to.

The School Premises have been inspected from time to time and the sanitary arrangements were found satisfactory.

THE ISOLATION HOSPITAL.

The Hospital was opened at the beginning of the year; in January 6 children suffering from Scarlet Fever being admitted; the Hospital was closed in the middle of March. It was necessary to open again on September 17th, and Scarlet Fever cases were admitted; during October and November there were as many as 12 cases in the Hospital, and at the end of the year there were two convalescent patients. No Diptheria cases have been admitted during the year.

FACTORY AND WORKSHOP'S ACT.

Factories and Workshops are few in number in this Borough. There are two large works of Messrs. Clowes & Sons (the Caxton Printing Works), and the Engineering Works of Messrs. Elliott and Garrood, Ltd. These have been visited and the Sanitary accommodation is satisfactory. At the Printing Works, where men and women are employed, the Sanitary arrangements are separate.

There is also a Corset Factory, giving employment to 63 young women. There are four separate workrooms in each of which there is no overcrowding; the ventilation is adequate. Whitewashing is carried out once a year and Sanitary arrangements are good.

Under the heading of Workshops and Work-places in Beccles there are 5 Tailors' Workshops, 12 Dressmaking and Millinery Workrooms. These have been visited and no overcrowding found to be present. The Sanitary arrangements are, on the whole satisfactory.

The number of Out-workers is very small, and these are engaged in Corset making, Dressmaking and Tailoring.

The Bakehouses have been visited, and no complaint made as to their condition.

There is one Common Lodging House and this has been visited on different occasions and at all times. It is satisfactorily kept and the walls whitewashed at regular intervals.

I have added a report from the Borough Surveyor, Mr. Cudbird, whose ready assistance and courtesy in connection with his office of Sanitary Inspector, I again wish to acknowledge.

I am, yours faithfully,

GEORGE R. FOX, F.R.C.S. (Eng.)

Medical Officer of Health.

BOROUGH SURVEYOR'S REPORT.

During the past year ending 31st August, 1909, Plans were approved for 41 dwellings and 5 for alterations, &c.

The total number of dwellings were 1729. Roads were treated with Calcium Chloride a few times but the system was discontinued. The Road Maintenance Co., secured the Contract for Granite, and 509 tons were used, the area covered, scarified, and rolled being about 7000 square yards, in addition to which, Ingate Road was coated with broked stone and rolled. A much needed improvement has been carried out in the loke off St. George's Road, viz.:—the laying of a Sewer which brought about the abolition of Two Insanitary Cesspools, and thereby greatly improved the Sanitary Area. The System of Sewers in several parts of the Borough have been improved by building additional Manholes, and additional Ventilation, as instanced by Newgate, which Sewer was relaid to even gradient.

During the year 52 Notices were served on Owners of Property in respect of Nuisances, which have in nearly all cases been abated. 305 Visits to Cowsheds, Dairies and Milkshops were made.

14 Premises were disinfected after infectious diseases.

There is about 50% of the total number of Premises that are not Ventilated or Intercepted.

Privies converted to wc's, 2; Privies converted to Pail Closets, 2; wc's connected to Cesspools, since connected to Sewer, 11; Pail Closets converted to wc's, 15.

T. OWEN CUDBIRD,

Borough Surveyor and Sanitary Inspector.

(Mem. Inst. Mun. & Co. E.).

TABLE I.—Vital Statistics of Whole District during 1909 and previous Years.

BOROUGH OF BECCLES.

Year.	Population estimated to Middle of each Year.	Births.		Total Deaths Registered in the District.				Total Deaths in Public Institutions in the District.	Deaths of Non-residents registered in Public Institutions in the District.	Deaths of Residents registered in Public Institutions beyond the District.	Nett Deaths at all Ages belonging to the District.	
				Under 1 Year of Age.		At all Ages.						
		Number.	Rate.*	Number.	Rate per 1,000 Births registered	Number.	Rate.*				Number.	Rate.*
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13
1899												
1900												
1901	6898	175	25·3	16	91·4	86	12·4	7				
1902	6898	164	23·7	17	103·6	105	15·2	7	5	6	106	15·3
1903	6898	152	22·03	13	85·6	84	12·17	7	3	5	86	12·2
1904	6898	163	23·6	16	98·16	82	11·8	7	4	4	82	11·8
1905	6898	145	21.02	18	124·14	84	12·17	9	4	9	89	12·9
1906	6898	150	21·7	9	60	98	14·2	7	4	7	101	14·6
1907	7000	160	22·8	21	131·25	84	12	7	6	6	84	12
1908	7037	175	24·8	11	62·5	72	10·2	0	0	7	79	11·2
Averages for years 1899-1908.									..			
1909	7070	150	21·2	9	60	78	11·03	5	2	14	90	12·7

* Rates in Columns 4, 8, and 13 calculated per 1,000 of estimated population.

Note.—The deaths to be included in Column 7 of this table are the whole of those registered during the year as having actually occurred within the district or division. The deaths to be included in Column 12 are the number in Column 7, corrected by the subtraction of the number in Column 10 and the addition of the number in Column 11.

By the term "Non-residents" is meant persons brought into the district on account of sickness or infirmity, and dying in public institutions there; and by the term "Residents" is meant persons who have been taken out of the district on account of sickness or infirmity, and have died in public institutions elsewhere.

The "Public institutions" to be taken into account for the purposes of these Tables are those into which persons are habitually received on account of sickness or infirmity, such as hospitals, workhouses, and lunatic asylums. A list of the Institutions in respect of the deaths in which corrections have been made should be given on the back of this Table.

Area of District in acres (exclusive of area covered by water), **2,037.**

Total population at all ages..... **6,898**
Number of inhabited houses..... **1,484** } At the Census of 1901
Average number of persons per house **4·64**

I.	II.	III.
Institutions within the District receiving sick and infirm persons from outside the District.	Institutions outside the District receiving sick and infirm persons from the District.	Other Institutions, the deaths in which have been distributed among the several localities in the District.
Beccles Hospital.	Wangford Union, Shipmeadow. County Asylum, Melton, Suffolk.	

Is the Union Workhouse within the District? No.

TABLE III.—Cases of Infectious Disease notified during the Year 1909.

BOROUGH OF BECCLES.

Notifiable Disease.	Cases notified in whole District.							Total Cases notified in each Locality.							No. of Cases Removed to Hospital from each Locality						
	At all Ages.	At Ages†—Years.						1	2	3	4	5	6	7	1	2	3	4	5	6	7
		Under 1	1 to 5	5 to 15	15 to 25	25 to 65	65 and upwards.														
Small-pox	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Cholera	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Diphtheria (including Membranous croup)	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Erysipelas	2	..	..	1	..	1	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Scarlet fever ..	25	..	13	10	1	1	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Typhus fever ..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Enteric fever ..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Relapsing fever ..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Continued fever ..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Puerperal fever ..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Plague	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
*Varicella	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Totals	27	..	13	11	1	2	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..

Notes.—The localities adopted for this table should be the same as those in Tables II. and IV.

State in space below the name of the isolation hospital, if any, to which residents in the district, suffering from infectious disease, are usually sent. Mark (H) the locality in which it is situated, or if not within the district, state where it is situated, and in what district. Mark (W) the locality in which a workhouse is situated.

This space may be used for record of other disease the notification (compulsory or voluntary) of which is in force in the district.

† These age columns for notification should be filled up in all cases where the Medical Officer of Health, by inquiry or otherwise, has obtained the necessary information.

Isolation Hospital—Common Road, Beccles. *Total available Beds*—12. *Number of Diseases that can be concurrently treated*—2.

TABLE IV.—Causes of, and Ages at, Death during the Year 1909.

BOROUGH OF BECCLES.

Causes of Death.	Deaths in or belonging to whole District at subjoined Ages.							Deaths in or belonging to Localities (at all Ages).							Total Deaths in Public Institutions in the District
	All Ages.	Under 1 year	1 and under 5	5 and under 15	15 and under 25	25 and under 65	65 and upwards								
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16
Small-pox	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Measles	1	..	1	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Scarlet fever	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Whooping-cough ..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Diphtheria and membranous croup ..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Croup	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Fever — Typhus	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Fever — Enteric	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Fever — Other continued	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Epidemic influenza ..	1	..	..	..	..	..	1	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Cholera	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Plague	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Diarrhœa	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Enteritis	1	1	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Puerperal fever ..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Erysipelas	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Other septic diseases ..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Phthisis	9	..	..	1	1	7	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Other tubercular diseases	3	1	1	1	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Cancer, maglignant disease	6	..	..	..	..	4	2	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Bronchitis	5	..	..	..	..	1	4	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Pneumonia	3	..	..	..	..	1	2	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Pleurisy	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Other diseases of Respiratory Organs ..	1	..	..	1	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Alcoholism / Cirrhosis of liver ..	2	..	..	..	..	2	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Venereal disease ..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Premature birth ..	3	3	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Diseases and accidents of parturition ..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Heart diseases	10	..	..	..	1	5	4	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	1
Accidents	4	..	..	..	1	2	1	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	1
Suicides	1	..	..	..	..	1	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Inquests	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Diabetes	1	..	..	..	..	1	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Senile Decay	16	..	..	..	..	..	16	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Convulsions	2	2	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
All other causes ..	20	2	1	2	..	7	8	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	3
All causes	89	9	3	5	3	31	38	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	5

NOTES.—*(a)* In this Table all deaths of "Residents" occurring in public institutions, whether within or without the district, are to be included with the other deaths in the columns for the several age groups columns (2-8). They are also, in columns 9-15, to be included among the deaths in their respective "Localities" according to the previous addresses of the deceased as given by the Registrars. Deaths of "Non-residents" occurring in public institutions in the district are in like manner to be excluded from columns 2-8 and 9-15 of this Table.

(b) *See* notes on Table I. as to the meaning of "Residents" and "Non-residents," and as to the "Public Institutions" to be taken into account for the purposes of these Tables. The "Localities" should be the same as those in Tables II. and III.

(c) All deaths occurring in public institutions situated within the district, whether of "Residents" or of "Non-residents," are, in addition to being dealt with as in note *(a)*, to be entered in the last column of this Table. The total number in this column should equal the figures for the year in column 9, Table I.

(d) The total deaths in the several "Localities" in columns 9-15 of this Table should equal those for the year in the same localities in Table II., sub-columns *c*. The total deaths at all ages in column 2 of this Table should equal the gross total of columns 9-15, and the figures for the year in column 12 of Table I.

(e) Under the heading of "Diarrhœa" are to be included deaths certified as from diarrhœa, alone or in combination with some other cause of ill-defined nature; and also deaths certified as from

Epidemic enteritis;
Zymotic enteritis;
Epidemic diarrhœa. Summer diarrhœa;
Dysentery and dysenteric diarrhœa;
Choleraic diarrhœa, cholera, cholera nostras (in the absence of Asiatic cholera).

Under the heading of "Enteritis" are to be included those certified as from Gastro-enteritis, Muco-enteritis, and Gastric catarrh, unless from information obtained by enquiry from the certifying practitioner or otherwise, the Medical Officer of Health should have reason for including such deaths, especially those of infants, under the specific term "Diarrhœa."

Deaths from diarrhœa secondary to some other well-defined disease should be included under the latter.

Under the headings of "Cancer" and "Puerperal fever" should be included all registered deaths from causes comprised within these general terms.

In recording the facts under the various headings of Tables I., II., III. and IV., attention has been given to the notes on the Tables.

GEORGE R. FOX, *Medical Officer of Health.*

April 4th, 1910.

TABLE V.—Infantile Mortality during the Year 1909.

BOROUGH OF BECCLES.

Deaths from stated Causes in Weeks and Months under One Year of Age.

CAUSE OF DEATH.		Under 1 Week.	1-2 Weeks.	2-3 Weeks.	3-4 Weeks.	Total under 1 month.	1-2 Months.	2-3 Months.	3-4 Months.	4-5 Months.	5-6 Months.	6-7 Months.	7-8 Months.	8-9 Months.	9-10 Months.	10-11 Months.	11-12 Months.	Total Deaths under One Year.
All Causes.	Certified	2	2	1	..	5	..	..	1	..	1	1	..	..	..	..	1	9
	Uncertified	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Common Infectious Diseases	Small-pox	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
	Chicken-pox	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
	Measles	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
	Scarlet Fever	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
	Diptheria: Croup ..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
	Whooping Cough ..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Diarrhœal Diseases.	Diarrhœa, all forms ..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
	Enteritis, Muco-enteritis, Gastro-enteritis	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	1	1
	Gastritis, Gastro-intestinal Catarrh ..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Wasting Diseases.	Premature Birth ..	2	..	1	..	3	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	3
	Congenital Defects ..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	.
	Injury at Birth ..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
	Want of Breast Milk ..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
	Atrophy, Debility, Marasmus	..	1	..	..	1	..	1	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	2
Tuberculous Diseases	Tuberculous Meningitis	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
	Tuberculous Peritonitis:	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
	Tabes Mesenterica ..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
	Other Tuberculous Diseases	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	1	..	..	..	..	..	..	1
	Erysipelas	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
	Syphilus	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
	Rickets	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
	Meningitis .. .. *(not Tuberculous)*	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
	Convulsions	..	1	..	..	1	..	..	..	..	..	1	..	..	..	..	..	2
	Bronchitis	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
	Laryngitis	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
	Pneumonia	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
	Suffocation, overlaying																	
	Other Causes	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
	TOTALS ..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	9

District (or sub-division) of BECCLES.

Population, estimated to the middle of 1909—7070.

Births in the year { legitimate—144. illegitimate—6.

Deaths in the year { legitimate infants—8. illegitimate infants—1.

Deaths from all causes at all Ages—78.

BOROUGH OF BECCLES.

ANNUAL REPORT

OF

Medical Officer of Health,

1909.

GEORGE R. FOX, F.R.C.S. (Eng.)

Medical Officer of Health.

Nobbs & Goate, Printers, Beccles and Loddon.